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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Savior, our God and our strength, in the shadow of Your hand, we find protection from life's slings and arrows. You keep us from toiling in vain, from spending our strength for nothing. Today, use our lawmakers to make America a light of the nations. May our Senators work with such integrity and dependence on You that freedom may reach to the end of the Earth. Lord, help them to seek first and foremost to know and do Your will and reward them for their service and sacrifices for freedom. Have compassion on us all and guide us to the springs of living water.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter.

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 30, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2012— MOTION TO PROCEED

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are on the motion to proceed to S. 3414, which is the cybersecurity bill. This is postcloture. At 4:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to executive session to vote on the nomination of Robert Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Tenth Circuit. This likely will be our last vote on a circuit judge for this Congress. I hope we can be successful. This is a person whom I will talk about a little bit, and he is certainly well qualified. He came out of committee unanimously.

At 5:30 p.m., today, there will be a cloture vote on the Bacharach nomination. If cloture is not invoked on the Bacharach nomination, the Senate will resume legislative session and begin consideration of the cybersecurity bill following the vote.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 6082

I am told H.R. 6082 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and nat-

ural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with regard to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

MIDDLE-CLASS TAX CUT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was glad to hear Speaker BOEHNER say last week he will bring the Senate-passed middle-class tax cut to the House floor for a vote. I heard again today he is going to hold to what he said. I think that is very good.

Our struggling Nation is one vote away from avoiding the fiscal cliff for middle-class families. Every Member of the House of Representatives should have an opportunity to show where they stand: with millionaires or the middle class. Members can support the Democrats' plan to cut taxes for 98 percent of Americans while reducing the deficit by almost \$1 trillion or they can support the Republican plan to hand out more tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, increasing taxes for 25 million American families struggling to put kids through college or even food on the table.

The two approaches demonstrate a glaring difference in priorities. There is another difference between the two plans. The Democrats' proposal is the only one with a chance of becoming law. President Obama said he would sign it tomorrow. What he will not do is sign into law any more wasteful giveaways to the wealthiest 2 percent.

The Senate has defeated the Republican proposal in a bipartisan vote, so it is simply a waste of time for House Republicans to continue to pursue their middle-class tax hike. House Republicans should stop holding the middle class hostage to extract more tax cuts for the richest of the rich. They

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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